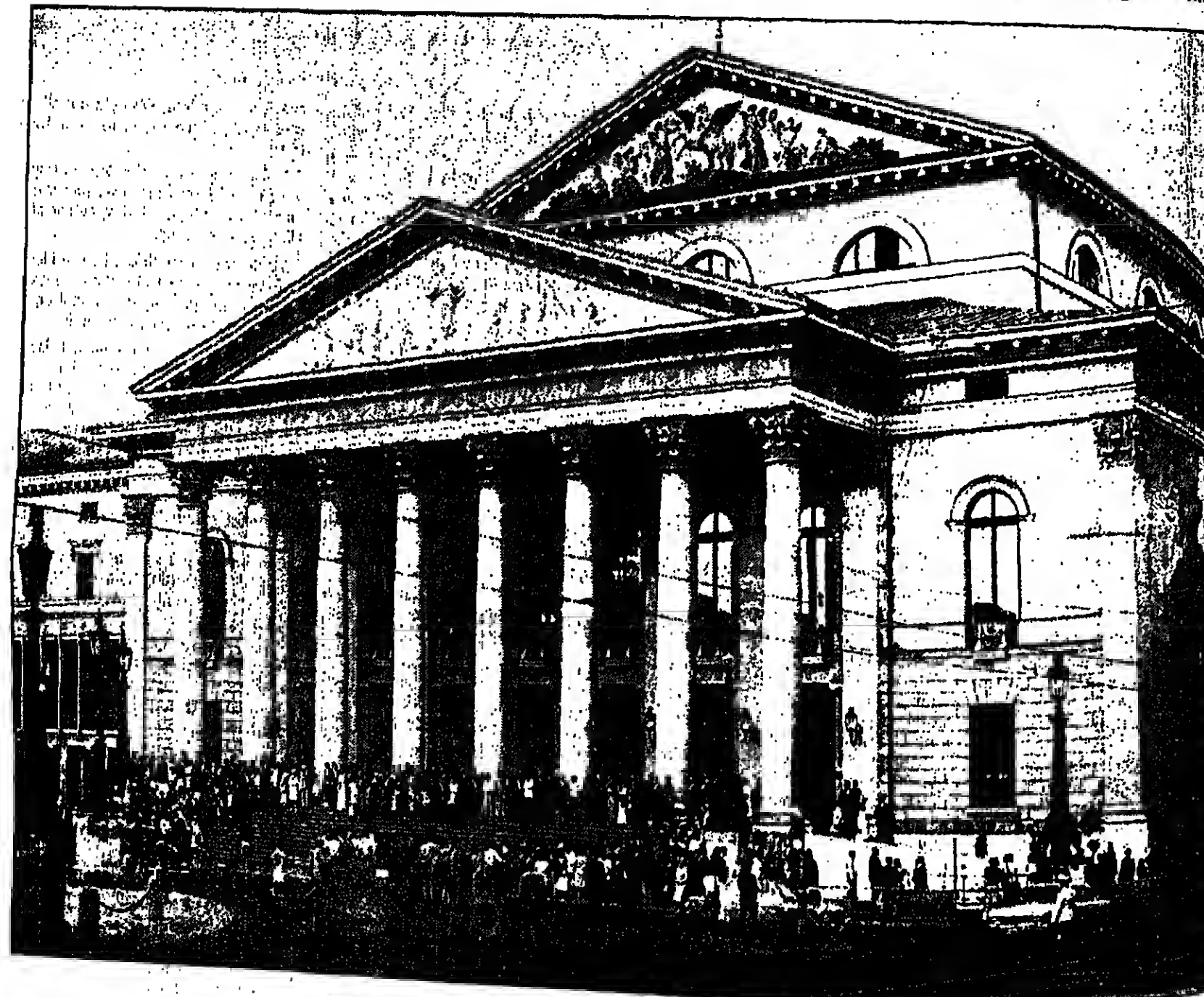


# Music and theatre in Germany

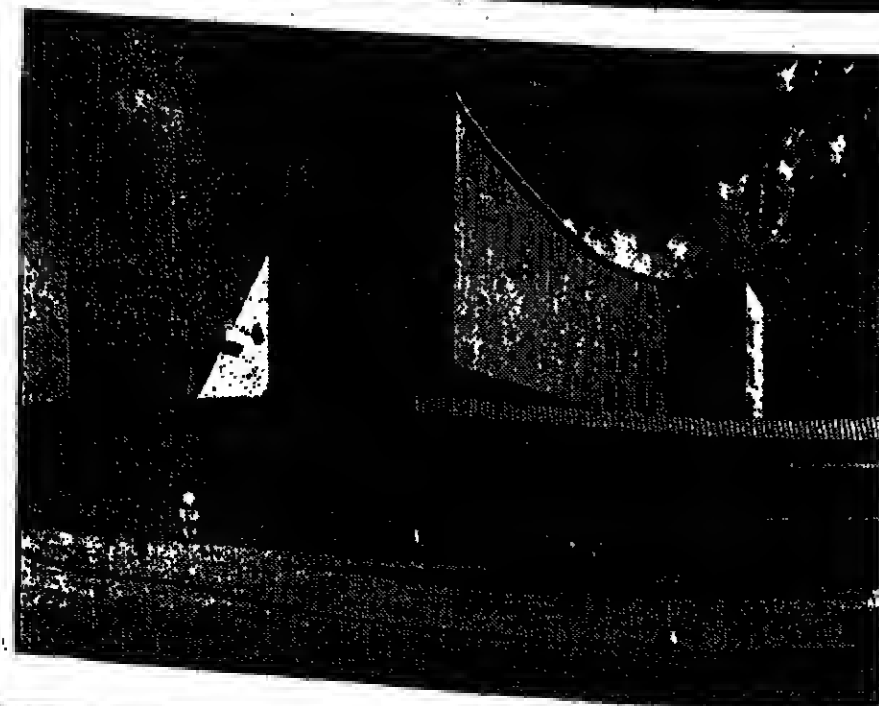
As early as 1882 musicians in Berlin founded a Philharmonic Orchestra, and from 1960 to 1963 the unique "Philharmonie" at the Kemperplatz in Berlin was built. 2,200 terraced seats with the podium in the centre. A place for great conductors, for great concerts. It shows

that Germany has castles and palaces, cities and industry but also unusual temples of the arts. Other examples are the theatre set on a monumental flight of outdoor stairs in the medieval town of Schwäbisch-Hell; the Baroque garden theatre in

Hanover-Herrenhausen; the theatre in the palace of Schloss Mannheim, founded 1749, and the Munich Opera. Bavarian National Theatre, 1811, burnt down later and its full splendour in 1963. A grand and elegant music festival



National-Oper, Munich  
Philharmonie, Berlin



DZT in DEUTSCHE  
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-8000

# The German Tribune

25 January 1981  
Year - No. 973 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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## enforcement problems in arms export control

with annual exports of arms and military equipment averaging DM1bn and in 1977 exceeding DM2bn for the first time.

No-one knows the exact amount, partly because the Federal Statistics Office is not allowed to publish them, partly because no-one is altogether sure any longer what is going on in the small print of export contracts.

This lack of clarity lays Germany wide open to ridicule, since Bonn has always been adamant at the UN on the need for industrialised countries to own up to their arms trade.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last called for the establishment of a registry office to which industrialised countries were to submit details of their arms exports a mere four months ago.

Yet as matters stand not even members of the Bonn Bundestag are briefed on what is envisaged as being registered with the UN.

Publication of the true figures would in all probability reveal that Germany is by no means a major league offender. In 1977 it accounted for a mere two per cent of the international arms trade turnover, which totalled DM100bn.

The United States, for instance, accounted for 46, the Soviet Union for 30, France for 10 and Britain for eight per cent.

In Germany the arms trade accounts for less than half a per cent of exports as a whole, whereas in America the percentage is roughly 20 and in Britain and France 10 each.

Arms output accounts for well under two per cent of GNP, while only three hundredths of a per cent of GNP are arms exports to Third World countries.

The payroll of the arms industry totals between 200,000 and 300,000 (depending which figures are to be believed), of whom about 36,000 depend on arms exports for their livelihood.

That is hardly an inordinate number out of a countrywide total of 22 million people in gainful employment.

So there can be no doubt that there are worse offenders than the West Germans. But there can also be no gainsaying that we never really wanted the figures to be so high.

The growth rates in particular are alarming. Do we really want to carry on in this way? Should we do so?

It is a question that has been hotly debated in the past — during the 1974/75 recession. Many then favoured derestricting the arms trade, stepping it up, even.

The main sin was to safeguard jobs, so much so that at times it sounded as though the job justified the means. Similar views are widespread now another recession is in the offing.

Two submarines for Pinochet provide 1,000 shipyard workers with employment, while 800 Leopard 2 tanks will keep 2,000 people in employment for eight years.

The works councils of arms manufacturing companies, keen to ensure job continuity, are anxious to see the export trade flourish.

Their logic is similar to that of workers in cigarette factories who regard the statutory warning that smoking may cause cancer as a threat to their jobs.

For the past two years Germany has also run up a current account deficit, DM10bn in 1979 and DM28bn in 1980, thereby adding attraction to what its opponents call the death trade.

Let us disregard moral arguments. There are enough reasons of a more down-to-earth kind why arms exports should not be derestricted.



## West Berlin Mayor quits

The Governing Mayor of West Berlin, Dietrich Stobbe, announces his resignation to the city's Senate after his nominations for Cabinet had failed to win approval. See page 3.

First, the effect would be limited in respect of job creation. The most that could be expected would be slightly less fluctuation in capacity utilisation.

Besides, once production capacity has been established it has to be kept busy. One then no longer has friends or foes, merely good customers and poor customers.

Second, many arms are indeed exported to the hot spots where there have been the most clashes, wars, coups and unrest over the past 30 years: the unstable Third World.

In the mid-60s they accounted for 35 per cent of arms imports; they now account for nearly 75 per cent. So we are pouring powder into kegs to which the fuses have already been lit.

Third, Willy Brandt complained in his North-South commission's report that it was the poorer developing countries that were spending more and more heavily on arms imports.

It was money they could ill afford to spare from their peaceful development programmes — either that or money they did not have in the first place.

In 1978 the Chancellor told the UN General Assembly that "the settlement of international arms transfer must hold an important place in our endeavours to bring about arms limitation."

Foreign Minister Genscher sounded a similar note in 1980, saying: "We cannot afford to look on idly while arms are pumped into developing countries that need not guns but schools and hospitals, tractors and lathes."

In point of fact we are not looking on idly; we are in there pumping away with the others. The price of the two submarines sold to Colombia, for instance, is almost exactly the amount supplied to that country in development aid.

Arms purchases by the Third World amount to almost exactly two thirds of development aid.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

WORLD AFFAIRS Page 2  
Schmidt and Genscher bid to boost stability in North Africa

DEFENCE Page 4  
Crossroads for military decision makers

ENERGY Page 6  
Seeking to keep the supply lines open

TRADE Page 7  
Third World sing at protectionism of Europe's textile industry

THE CINEMA Page 10  
Cameras roll as team avoids the bullets

CHILDREN Page 12  
Handicap or just a learning problem? Primate judgements a danger

Continued on page 9



grasp would enable him to catch  
Hubert B...  
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 January)

determined to defend our country  
will have an impact on the MBFR  
that have been marking time for years.  
(Die Welt, 14 January 1975)



grasp would enable him to catch  
soon. *Hubert Billee*  
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 January 1934)



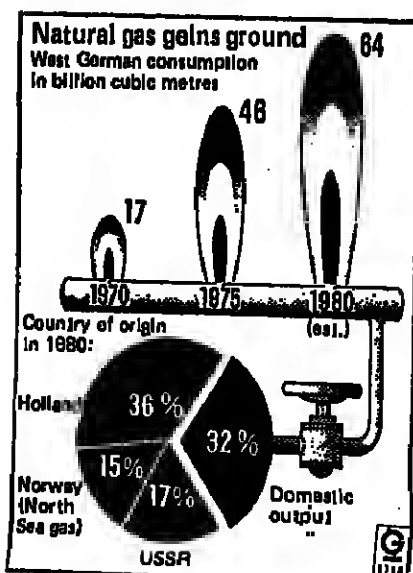
## ENERGY

## Seeking to keep the supply lines open

This is the year when Iranian gas should have started flowing into Germany. But the project has been thwarted by the 1978 Islamic revolution. The way things stand, there is little likelihood that conditions in Iran will improve and that the gas contract in which Iran has already invested more than one billion dollars (a contract which has never been officially abrogated) will be fulfilled.

It is obvious that Europe's gas importers, who had hoped that the Iranian deal would ease the energy situation, now have to look for another supplier.

The Soviet Union, which already supplies Western Europe and which was a party to the deal with Iran, would seem the obvious choice.



That country could jump into the breach relatively quickly and begin supplying gas as early as 1984/85. But the contract for 40 billion cubic metres of Russian natural gas to be supplied to Germany, France, Belgium and Holland is not yet signed.

There are a number of considerations that have delayed the signing. The high price demanded by the Soviet Union (which is higher than the international price level) is not the main obstacle because this could simply be viewed as a card in the poker game over the terms and conditions.

More important is the financing of the deal and the fact that Germany would become dependent on a country with a different economic and social system — a system which occasionally displays considerable aggression towards the West.

It is certainly not the function of energy companies to make economic policy — that is for Bonn's politicians.

But the question is whether entrepreneurs should completely disregard political considerations even though politicians take the pros and cons of such a deal rather lightly — like the chairman of the Economic Policy Work Group of the SPD Parliamentary Party who argues that the fact that the Soviet Union is prepared to supply even more gas is in fact a guarantee that it won't turn off the tap.

One could just as well argue that appointing a hulk to guard a china shop is a guarantee that nothing will be broken. What speaks in favour of the deal is the fact that the Iranian gas would in any event have been piped to Europe via the Soviet Union.



Under the Iran contract, the gas was to have been piped to the Dniez industrial region in the Soviet Union. Russia would have supplied Europe with the same quantity of gas from Western Siberia.

In this way, Iran would have been a major element in securing Western Europe's gas supplies, meaning that it could have turned off the tap for the Soviet Union — especially if, once Russian gas stopped flowing, Europe responded by discontinuing payments to Iran.

It is also worth pointing out that at the last Hanover Fair, a Soviet cabinet member openly threatened that his country would turn off the gas tap if Bonn "misbehaved". He did not say what Moscow understood under "not misbehaving".

This sort of thing did not recur but it clearly shows that Moscow is not beyond considering such a move.

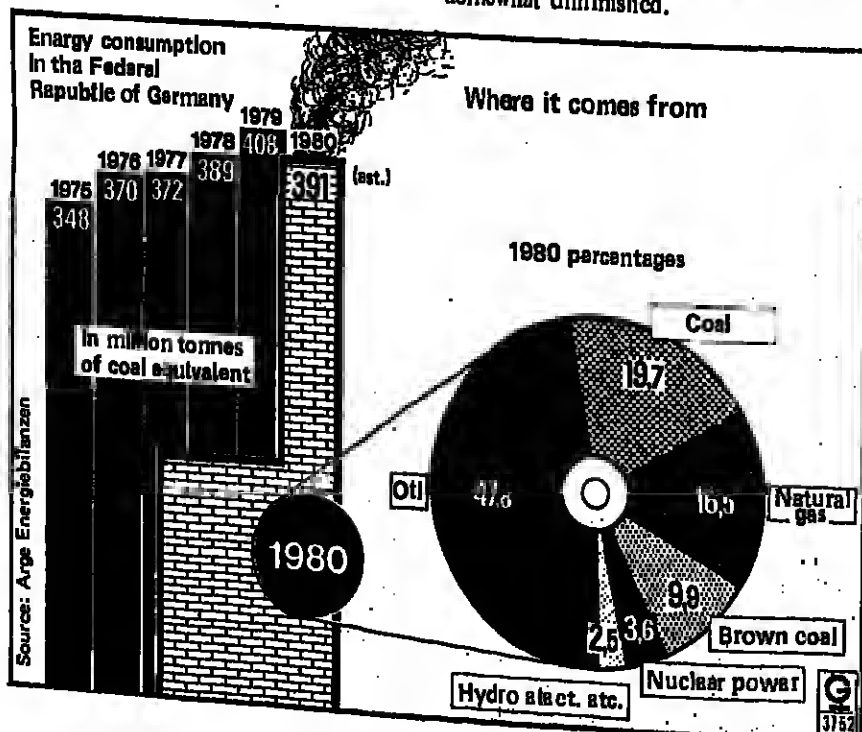
If the new gas-pipes financing deal with Moscow were to come to fruition, this country's maximum dependence on Soviet gas would be 30 per cent of requirements. And it is certainly correct to assume that the Soviet gas would thus account for about 6 per cent of our total energy needs.

There is little consolation in the fact that Moscow has never yet made use of the energy weapon because, should this contingency arise, our entire energy policy would collapse. The shortfall could only be offset by importing more oil, and this would run counter to the prime objective of reducing the dependence on oil.

The gas importers keep stressing that we must not swap one dependence for another. Diversification of suppliers, they say, is a must.

But simply having a mass of contracts with politically unreliable parties would hardly help to achieve this aim.

Moreover, experts doubt that the estimated overall gas consumption of 90 billion cubic metres in 1990, on which the proportion of Russian gas is based, is realistic.



According to latest consumption trends, the figure is more likely to be 70 billion cubic metres.

If (due to the rigid terms of the deal necessitated by the financing and the supply of pipes) the Russian quota remains unchanged, the proportion of Soviet gas will be as high as 40 per cent. This figure gives rise to great concern.

Another drawback of the deal is the financing. Even disregarding the fact that Germany would import only 30 per cent of the annual 40 billion cubic metres involved while bearing half the exploration and exploitation costs for the gasfields (and is also expected to put DM20bn into the pipeline construction) there is the fact that the entire East Bloc is deeply in debt to the West. So the gas buyer, Germany, would thus become doubly dependent: both for its energy supply and the security of its financial investment.

The gas importers have always insisted that the supplier countries invest their own money as well whenever such international deals were made.

In the case of Algeria a major contract floundered on that country's refusal to honour its original commitment to build a liquefaction plant costing around DM2bn. The plant would have been indispensable to the deal.

So far, the motto has been: gas — but not at any price. This tenet should be applied to the Soviet Union as well.

There are other regions such as the North Sea, Nigeria or Canada that could

## Reducing dependence on oil remains a priority

The latest petrol price increase, which has taken the price of normal gas from about DM1.20 to DM1.24 (it varies slightly) means that the DM1.50 litre is likely to be reached this year.

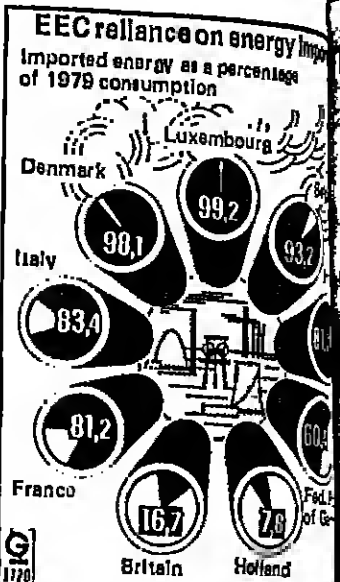
In April, petrol tax is to go up by another 7 pfennigs a litre.

Most of the blame for the present rise is being put on the oil companies, who always seem to be the lightning rods in this situation.

But critics should remember that petrol prices are rising world-wide.

They should realise that the main culprit is Opec — a viewpoint that is not particularly popular in this country.

Germany's most pressing energy problem is to rid itself of its excessive dependence on oil, although this has somewhat diminished.



act as suppliers. They might not be convenient as Russia, which is a proved supplier, but they serve better than the Soviets who come to implementing the idea of putting all our energy eggs in the basket. Even the Opec countries are considered as possible suppliers.

Though there are uncertainties there too, those countries do not have their economic decisions determined by political considerations — at least to the same extent as in the Soviet Union where politics has always had an over economic considerations.

Wolfgang Müller-Haas  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 January 1981)

on new agreement were to be concluded our textiles and clothing industry would have to fear that the European market would again be flooded with products from Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Hungary and others as was the case in the 1960s when these countries' exports

Even the first energy programme of the early 1970s was aimed at getting away from oil and has helped reduce our coal capacity through high subsidies. Getting away from oil is even more important now in view of the strict import controls imposed on our balance of payments.

Last year, the oil bill amounted to some DM70bn compared with DM10bn ten years ago. The current account deficit thus caused will amount to about DM30bn for 1980 — a situation that must be remedied.

To make matters worse, unemployment will be one of our most pressing economic problems this year and the economy will need new impulses.

This being so, it is surprising that proposals to step up the construction of nuclear power stations has met with little public sympathy.

It is neither possible nor desirable to build new A-plants overnight. But at least a goodly portion of the DM40bn DM50bn worth of cancelled or planned A-plants were to be tackled in the next couple of years, several things could be achieved:

- The economy would receive new impulses without another costly boom.
- Unemployment would be reduced markedly; and
- We would save a great deal of foreign exchange in the medium and long terms.

Politicians should not be discouraged by the fact that the same quarters who level their accusations at the "price hikers" are also most willing to oppose the construction of A-plants.

The time has come to show that we do not need to necessarily be red-green. (Händelblatt, 12 January 1981)

## Third World anger at protectionism of Europe's textile industry

of the 2.5 million workers in the European Community's 26,000 and clothing factories stopped for an hour late last year to remind the Commission of its duty.

Eurocrats made no bones about the fact that this brief industrial strike was welcome.

The European authority of foreign trade is faced with a dilemma with some 30 Third World countries in a bid to prevent them from swamping Europe with blouses, shirts, trousers, pullovers, sweaters and fabrics.

It skims the air at the negotiating table due to the fact that the second Textile Agreement is due to expire at the end of this year.

The agreement was concluded in 1977 when the EEC Commission and the World and East Bloc countries agreed on a unique inasmuch as it imposes restrictions on Asian, North African and Latin American and East European countries.

Under the new agreement were to be concluded our textiles and clothing industry would have to fear that the European market would again be flooded with products from Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Hungary and others as was the case in the 1960s when these countries' exports

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Europe's textiles manufacturers are convinced that the Council of Ministers will erect trade barriers if Third World exporters refuse to go along with self-restrictions.

But this is far from certain. Though the World Textile Agreement is the most extreme exception to Gatt's free trade rules, even the textiles market needs a certain degree of consensus. Should the Community arbitrarily restrict imports, the free trade regulations of Gatt would be brought to bear in retaliation.

The British, who burned their fingers in the case of Indonesia, are a telling example.

Indonesia is one of the countries with which the EEC has agreed on protective clauses only. In other words the Community does not restrict imports *a priori* but only if one of the member nations applies for restrictions — and even then only once imports exceed a certain predetermined level.

Last summer, Britain applied to the Commission to stop the import of

Last autumn, Italy drafted its very low strategy to curb steel imports. Pointing to the EEC Commission's crisis provisions, Rome made use of a simple but effective instrument: 24 of the country's 36 customs posts were stripped of their authority to process steel shipments.

This type of indirect trade restriction would be unthinkable in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This is one of the reasons why steel imports to the EEC have been concentrated on Germany.

In 1974, only one-third of EEC steel imports came to Germany. Last year, it was two-fifths.

At present, non-EEC nations supply 10 per cent of our steel market, which means that their market share has doubled since 1973.

The most important suppliers are Spain, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

The past 20 years have been marked by rapid development — and not only in technical terms — of the iron and steel industry. New producers mushroomed in many parts of the world.

The Essen-based Rhineland-Westphalia Institute for Economic Research has established that 90 countries now produce iron and steel. 20 years ago, they numbered 36.

The traditional supremacy of Europe and the United States on the world steel market has become somewhat shaky. They have lost markets and new import quotas have reduced prices and the volume of sales. Japan was for a long time a formidable competitor: its crude steel production rose between 1965 and 1979 from 65 million to a huge 116 million tons a year.

But the Japanese have now become somewhat restrained on the international steel market. The trend in Japan is now more towards processing the metal at

home. The idea is to export finished and hence more expensive products rather than crude steel.

Crude steel capacities have also increased considerably in Latin America, tripling in the past 15 years to hit the 35 million tons a year mark.

The growth rates have been most pronounced in Brazil and Mexico.

Brazil's capacity now stands at 12 million tons a year.

In the Far East, it was primarily Taiwan and South Korea that developed their capacities. They rose from 3 million tons a year in 1974 to 9 million in 1978.

The main reason for the growing steel output in the threshold countries was their own economic growth in conjunction with rising demand worldwide.

## Germany a chief target for steel exports

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The main reason for the growing steel output in the threshold countries was their own economic growth in conjunction with rising demand worldwide.

Some countries have also been motivated by strategic interests and prestige considerations.

According to the International Iron and Steel Institute, Third World steel output rose from an annual 31 million tons in 1974 to 55 million in 1979. The industrial nations' production dropped five per cent during the same period.

It should, however, be mentioned that the crude steel production in the Federal Republic of Germany alone amounts to about 40 million tons a year, which puts the figures for the Third World into perspective.

Another reason for the development of the steel industry outside the traditional steel producing areas lies in the

growth rates which are higher than the growth rates of domestic production in Europe.

Gatt specifically stipulates that exports must not be reduced by agreement. It thus moderates the protectionism of the World Textile Agreement.

It is therefore not surprising that dyed-in-the-wool protectionists are dissatisfied because the second agreement with its export restrictions has showed little in the way of results.

Europe's textiles and clothing industry continues to shrink in varying degrees from country to country.

After 1977, when Tran van Thinh, as he put it, "closed the European boutique" there was no new trend in the development of Europe's industry.

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After 1977, when Tran van Thinh, as he put it, "closed the European boutique" there was no new trend in the development of Europe's industry.

In Germany, the number of textile workers diminished by 22 per cent to 617,000 between 1973 and 1976. Thereafter, it shrank by only 8 per cent because Germany had completed its restructuring and modernisation phase.

Britain's textiles and clothing industry in the past 12 months has reduced its payroll by more than 10 per cent by laying off 80,000 people.

The culprit was not cheap imports from the Third World but those from Italy.

Protected from even cheaper Far East imports, the Italians were well prepared for Common Market competition and so dealt severe blows, especially to Britain and France. It was these countries that were the most emphatic proponents of the World Textile Agreement.

Winfried Münster  
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 January 1981)

technical developments of the past couple of decades.

These now permit even smaller steel mills to operate profitably.

The commercial feasibility now lies at as little as 10,000 tons a year. As a result, such mini steel mills are sprouting everywhere.

New production methods have provided countries with natural gas resources with a new opportunity.

In fact, major German steel companies are already contemplating importing not only ore from the developing countries but iron as well. The idea is to process it here and use it to make special steel. The new steel producing nations lack the know-how to do so themselves.

So far, the new steel producing nations have not caused too much of a stir in Europe. Of the 700 million tons of steel produced worldwide in 1979, only one-seventh reached world markets while the rest was sold domestically.

And of the 110 million tons traded on international markets, only an estimated 7 per cent came from the Third World.

Japan and Europe accounted for 60 per cent.

Says Dr. Ruprecht Vondran of the Iron and Steel Association: "Third World production and its effects on the traditional suppliers of iron and steel are overestimated."

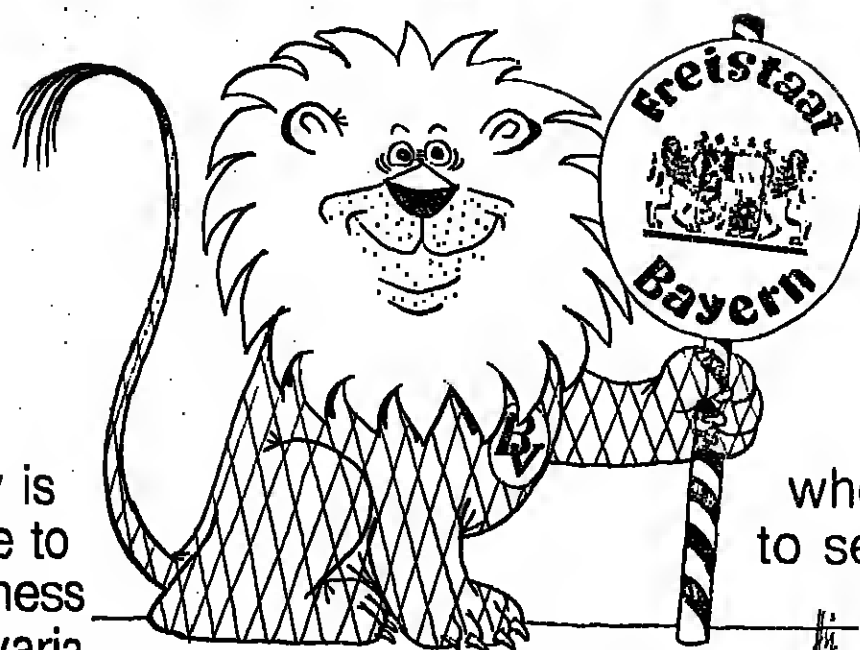
He points to the fact that those countries need so much steel that their imports have risen.

The threat to European steel production comes from another quarter: the East Bloc, where the steel industry enjoys a privileged position. Those countries want to step up exports to improve their foreign exchange earnings.

Leonhard Spielhofer  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 January 1981)



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## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Problems of the urban ecosystem

#### Frankfurt Rundschau

When the unkempt central reservation of an urban highway, delegates to the Second European Ecological Symposium in West Berlin were told.

It is soon overgrown with weeds such as dandelion, lamb's tail plantain, clover, various kinds of grass and fern.

One day workmen come round and mow the vegetation under prior to the laying of the centre section being mowed and laid out with uniform grass. From the viewpoint of the urban ecologist this labour- and cost-intensive bid to make nature more orderly is more a merely superficial one.

One of the ecologists' foremost demands is for leeway to be left for spontaneous vegetation, especially in parks, and for the fauna that accompany

The city and nature, the gathering of plants, are not mutually exclusive.

Spontaneous vegetation, for instance, is much better than "managed" urban greenery in upholding the natural functions of the soil as an environment for organisms and root space for plants.

It ensures a variety of species that is desirable not only from the viewpoint of nature conservation; it is also of special importance in restoring the quality of the soil.

Soil criss-crossed by plenty of roots and a home for large numbers of worms and micro-organisms is more easily permeated by rainwater and is a more effective filter, said Professor Manfred Horbert of Berlin Technical University's department of ecology.

One of the most frequently discussed urban ecology problems is the damage caused to roadside trees by salt spread on winter roads to melt snow and ice.

A comprehensive survey of soil properties could provide an effective measure. Damage is unlikely to occur where soil is so quick to filter off the salt water as it thaws that it has passed through the root stratum by the time vegetation begins to grow again.

In areas where water does not seep

through the soil so readily the planners must take their choice. They must either dispense with salt or forgo deep-rooted trees.

Professor Bradshaw of Liverpool University, a British ecologist, described the urban environment as a natural system with a characteristic interface between soil, climate, flora and fauna, but a system on which the predominance of mankind had made a lasting mark.

This predominance brought about far-reaching departures from more natural ecosystems. Atmospheric and water pollution, compacted and sealed soil, overbuilding, lowering of the ground water level, climate changes and the threat to or extinction of entire species of flora and fauna were symptomatic of these departures yet conveyed an incomplete impression of their magnitude.

Take climate changes brought about by building. As a result of building patterns the mean wind speed in towns was 10 to 20 per cent lower than in un-built environments, said Professor Horbert.

On clear summer days in particular the difference in relative humidity can be up to 10 per cent. Poorer ventilation leads to more clouds, up to 15 per cent less sunshine and an average 10 per cent more rainfall.

Large city parks can help to offset this climate deterioration to a certain extent. But they will only do so when a number of ecological considerations are taken into account at the planning stage.

Parks must have wind corridors, otherwise they may not only prevent any improvement in environmental climate; they could well perpetuate topsy-turvy weather conditions accompanied as a rule by a high level of toxins in the lower reaches of the atmosphere.

These are conditions in which the lower reaches are colder than the air above. This impedes or even prevents entirely atmospheric circulation and the movement of toxins.

Poorly ventilated parks can heighten this effect because the temperature in them is perceptibly lower than in their built-up surroundings.

Wide roads are totally unsatisfactory as wind corridors. Far from encouraging a breath of fresh air through the park,

they merely enrich the park air with harmful substances released into the atmosphere by road transport. They thus also seal off large areas of the city's surface. These few examples must suffice to show that a perceptible improvement in the living conditions of man, flora and fauna can be brought about by taking ecological considerations into account in town planning. What is more, it need not be expensive. Yet cost is a problem, not only in Germany but also in other European countries, the symposium revealed. In his opening address Professor Wolfgang Haber of Munich Technical University, Weihenstephan, president of the Ecological Society, said social renewal must be followed by ecological renewal of the urban environment.

There can be no question of this demand yet having been fulfilled. The most that can be said is that a start may have been made: in Central Poland, for instance.

A Polish delegate explained that a vegetation chart had been compiled for central areas of his country. Its utilisation recommendations had at least in part been borne in mind in development planning by smaller towns.

Proposals to bring about a change in this state of affairs ranged from deliberate infiltration of planning authorities by ecologists to intensified public relations activity and the entry of ecologists into politics.

The symposium, attended by about 400 experts from 18 countries, showed however that substantially less detailed scientific knowledge is available about urban ecosystems than about their natural counterparts.

Until a few years ago ecologists were exclusively interested in the latter.

There is moreover a shortage of models to outline in a sufficiently exemplary manner the complex inter-relationships of the urban ecosystem while at the same time making points that can be taken into practical account by planners.

Manion Kem  
(Frankfurt Rundschau, 3 January 1981)



Grass and sheep... efficient energy saver.

(Photo: dpa)

### Sheep on a hot turf roof

Can sheep safely graze on your roof? It is not as zany a question as you might think. A home-owner in Hanau, near Frankfurt, keeps sheep on his roof.

He is architect Jens Drefahl, whose roof is a neatly laid-out lawn kept in trim by the world's finest four-legged lawnmowers.

It is not just original and an eye-catcher; it also cuts out the need for oil-fired central heating.

He laid his first roof in turf four years ago, primarily to outline a green and pleasant alternative to depressing concrete and plate glass.

Scientific trials have since shown, or so he claims, that his idea can also be converted into a first-rate energy-saver.

Experience too has shown that his grass roof, complete with its biological absorber system, is more efficient than either solar panels or heat exchangers.

It absorbs heat from the atmosphere, from humidity, rain and fog. It uses heat from nature's waste material. All told, he says, it is more effective as a heat-provider than any other system.

As part of a research project commissioned by the Bonn Housing Ministry he is now to design a dozen homes in Gross-Krotzenburg, also near Frankfurt, with lush green rather than dull tiles on their roofs.

The objective is to save fossil energy such as coal or oil and make better use of hitherto unused heating processes.

The lawn roof as an energy-saver combines, he says, a high net gain in energy, low installation costs and an attractive exterior.

At night and in winter, vegetation develops heat, Drefahl explains. As in photosynthesis heat is released and soil as a storage heater helps to balance daily variations in outside temperature.

Solar heat, stored in the turf during the day, makes it possible to run the heat pump at night on cut-rate current.

The system includes a network of plastic hoses beneath the turf that are filled with water and anti-freeze. A heat pump extracts the heat to heat water for heating and for the bathroom and kitchen.

Jens Drefahl is emphatic that his grass roof is no more expensive than tiling the roof in the conventional manner. The only extra expense is that of the water circulation, or drainage, system.

Theo Sommer  
(Die Welt, 9 January 1981)

Continued from page 1

the development aid they receive from the industrialised world.

We no longer ought to persist in this madness. It would indeed be better and less expensive to pay the Kiel shipyard workers and the Krauss Maffel workers who make tanks in Munich civil service pensions for the rest of their lives.

Let there come the Saudis, keen to buy Leopards, Cheetahs, Martens and other tracked vehicles made in West Germany. They are in a position to place orders worth billions.

Saudi Arabia is also a major trading partner, doing DM8.7bn in import-export trade with the Federal Republic. It is a major oil supplier, accounting for 17 per cent of West Germany's oil imports.

It is, moreover, a leading figure in the international monetary scene.

When saying so openly, Riyadh is

compelled to give Germany long-term

loans at concessional rates; place major

### Arms exports

orders in the civil sector and invest heavily in West German companies.

Bonn must not base its decision on job considerations; it must be guided by foreign policy criteria.

Ever since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan it too has been called on to play its part in containing the Soviet drive to expand in the Near East.

That is one consideration. The other is that since the 1973 October Revolution - the first oil crisis - safe, smooth supplies of oil at reasonable prices have been a consideration of overriding national interest.

Bonn must give the matter careful consideration. How stable is Saudi Arabia? Might it be destabilised in much the same way as Iran under the Shah by being overwhelmed with Western arms and military advisers?

Could it really play a new role between the superpowers, given our assistance? Would our supplies of oil really be safer, less expensive and more reliable in the long term?

These are the issues to be considered in the current debate. The Bonn government has three options, either to sell arms to anyone, to sell arms to no-one outside Nato, as demanded by Helmut Schmidt in his 1969 book *Strategie des Gleichgewichtes* (Balance of Power Strategy), or to look on arms exports as an aspect of foreign, foreign trade and security policy.

The latter would, of course, have to include due consideration of Israel and the United States.

It is not an easy decision to take and must not be one. Whichever option is chosen, the decision must set aside considerations of Social Democratic domestic policy.

Theo Sommer  
(Die Zeit, 16 January 1981)



## THE CINEMA

## Cameras roll as team avoids the bullets

Volker Schlöndorff, who hit international film headlines with his version of Günter Grass' *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin Drum), is now working in the Lebanon, on the film of Nicolas Born's novel *Die Fälschung* (The Forgery).

Schlöndorff sees filming on exotic locations as a trend in German film making. The day he started shooting on *Die Fälschung*, his colleague Werner Herzog started work on his film about Brazilian Indians in the Amazon.

The centre of Beirut, where much of the filming takes place, was burnt out in the 1976 and 1978 civil wars. Bombed and blown to bits. It is a no-go area with a strict curfew at night.

Nocturnal curfew breakers tend to wind up dead.

Schlöndorff has been given permission to film, but this has not stopped his team being shot at twice. It was a case of mistaken identity because the soldiers did not realise that films were shot in the rain.

Schlöndorff says: "We had to negotiate with Syrians, Falangists, Palestinians and Lebanese before we got permission to film. In the end they all wanted us to produce the film here, so that people do not forget the Arabs."

*Die Fälschung* is about the Middle East correspondent of a major newspaper called Laschen. During the horrors of the Lebanese civil war, which he describes knowledgeably, coolly and objectively, Laschen begins to be tormented by doubts about what he is writing. He knows that the compression and organisation of his material is itself a falsification, which makes the description of the human suffering he sees impossible. At the same time he is worried that he may lose the awareness that he is forging reality.

He also comes to realise that his marriage in Germany is a tissue of lies. He forms a relationship with another woman in Beirut, a German working at the German embassy. This woman is so absorbed in oriental thinking and feeling that she wants to be an Arab herself. She longs for a child and adopts an Arab war orphan. In doing so, she breaks out of the relationship with Laschen.

Born established his reputation as novelist when *Die Fälschung* was published in autumn 1979. Two months after the novel was published, he died of cancer.

Schlöndorff has done a lot of research on the real characters on whom the characters are based. He has even tracked down the embassy clerk and the reporter.

The reporter, Kai Hermann, has completed the screenplay with Jean-Claude Carrière. The editorial conferences were filmed in the offices of the Hamburg news magazines *Stem* and *Spiegel*.

Laschen and the "Arab Geimen" Ariane are played by Bruno Ganz and Hanna Schygulla. Photographer Hoffmann, a go-getter and the complete opposite of the doubler Laschen is played by Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski; the cameraman, as in *The Tin Drum*, is Igor Luther.

Asked how he was going to portray the hero's complex psychological development in the film, this almost insane doubt and questioning of his own iden-

tity, Schlöndorff said he would concentrate on filming the day-to-day action and the psychology would then take care of itself.

He wanted to capture the biblical light on the hills of the Lebanon, the romantic image of the orient celebrated in so many nineteenth century paintings.

"The idea of the orient that many of us have in our minds becomes visible in the lobby of the hotel where Laschen lives. In the flood of light which illuminates the 1,001 nights, the five-metre tall palms, the Arabian arches and ornaments. We transformed the Beirut casino into this hotel lobby", he says.

"Beirut itself was like an American city or like Zurich. But now rows of skyscrapers are burnt out. No other country in the Middle East tried to be as American as Lebanon. And no other country was so destroyed."

Schlöndorff stressed that his main concern was the German hero who asked himself what he had to do with these events.

The Lebanese were very anxious to take part in the film and Schlöndorff has Lebanese working on the technical side and actors recruited from a Beirut theatre.

"I thought they would threaten me with guns to find out what is in the script or what kinds of parts they would have to play. But they are grateful that a film is being made about them at all and they all want parts. They feel despised."

Schlöndorff has been to Israel, too, and is fully aware of the apparently insoluble problems between the Israelis and the Arabs.

"There is a lot of death in *Die Fälschung* and Laschen realises how much he loves life. I would like to get this across", he says.

I asked if the film would be in the spare style of his Young Törless.

He said: "No probably more like *The Tin Drum*, but how should I know before it's finished?"

What language is spoken? "The Germans of course speak German among themselves. Almost all the Lebanese can speak French. Communication between them and the Germans takes place in a linguistic reduction typical of the situation."

Shooting in Lebanon will take three months. Then there will be shooting in Hamburg and Luneburg. Heath, where Laschen lives, *Die Fälschung* is due to be released in October. The costs of the co-production, financed by Hessian TV, the Film, Subsidy Board and the Project Commission, will be about DM5m.

Brigitte Joremlis (Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung for Deutschland, 7 January 1981)

Reporter Laschen runs for safety in war-torn Beirut... a scene from 'Die Fälschung' (Photo: Tobin)

Hanna Schygulla as Laila Andarman in 'Laila Marleen' (Photo: Tobin)



Reporter Laschen runs for safety in war-torn Beirut... a scene from 'Die Fälschung' (Photo: Tobin)

## Fassbinder's latest likely to keep controversy going

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's latest film, *Lili Marleen*, has just been released. And it is likely to be as controversial as his version of Döblin's *Berlin Alexanderplatz*.

The reasons, however, are different. In *Alexanderplatz*, the soul of the TV viewer seethed at the extreme nature of the photography, the tortured dwelling on a man's downfall, and the metaphysical intensity of the epilogue.

Clearly, Fassbinder has not had enough of torturing the viewer, who is apparently incapable of reaching for the switch and ending the agony.

In *Lili Marleen*, he has come up with a film about recent German history which he distorts into melodramatic comedy.

And in doing so, he is obviously inspired by the stylised melodrama, sentimentally, irony and radicalism of Douglas Sirk's films.

Fassbinder sees Nazi Germany as a pompous spectacle, a big flag and swastika show, the dream of frenzied hourglass, turned nightmarish reality. The Nazis made full use of their political and social power but at the same time unleashed pomp, glamour and perfect terror in a vain attempt to attain happiness.

The question is whether Fassbinder will be able to follow Fassbinder's small part as resistance fighter in the film — and screenplay author — and screenplay author Fred Fritze as far as this point the gaudy, sarcastic, grotesque and elements that have preceded it.

Certainly Fassbinder has not the past in the classical West TV manner.

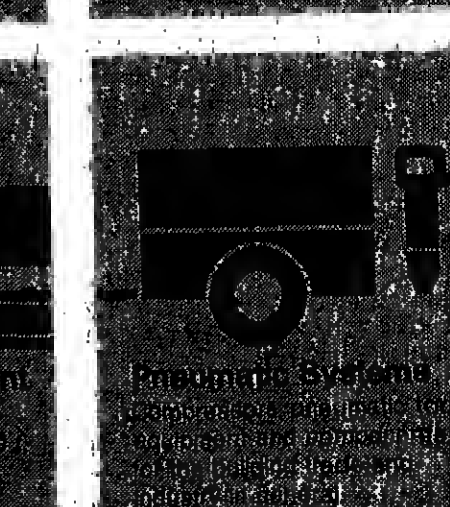
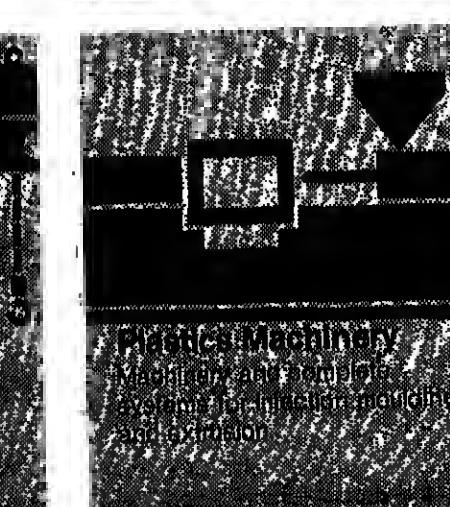
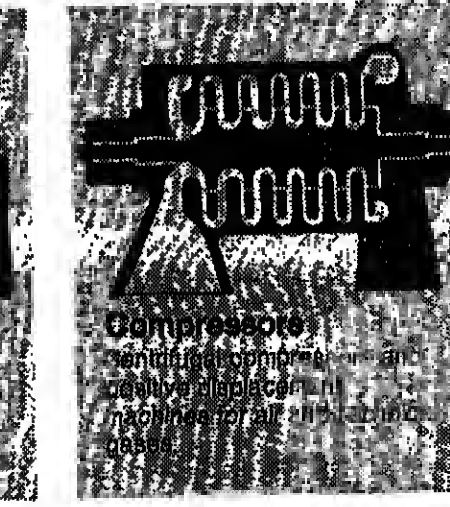
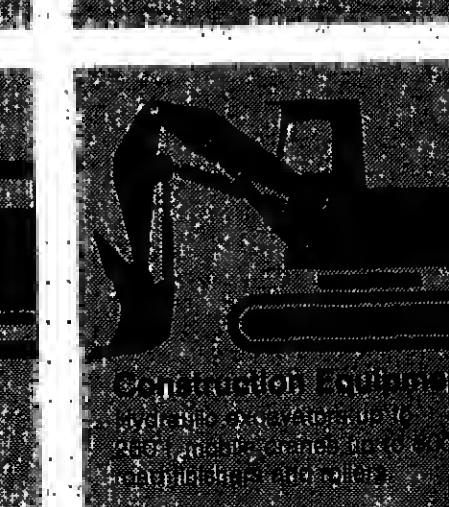
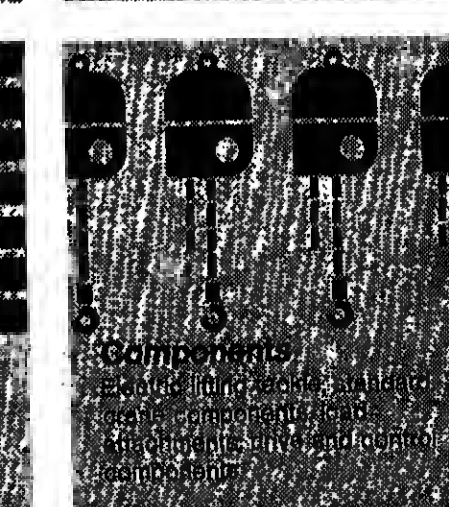
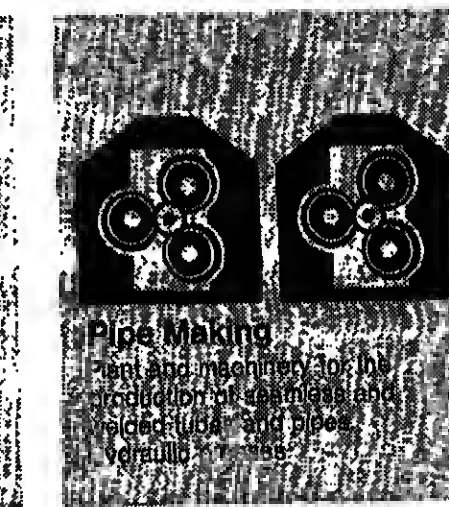
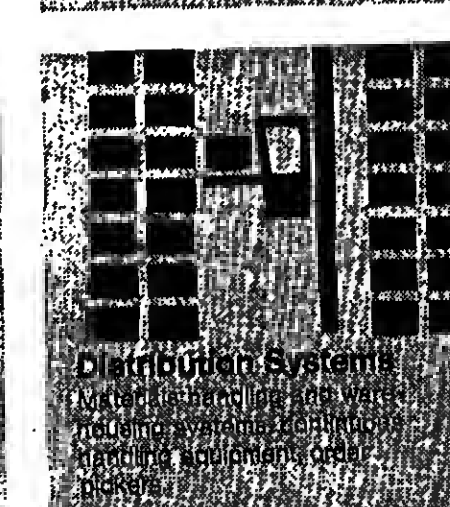
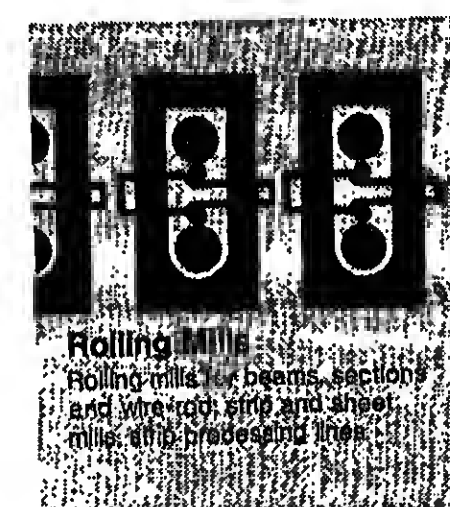
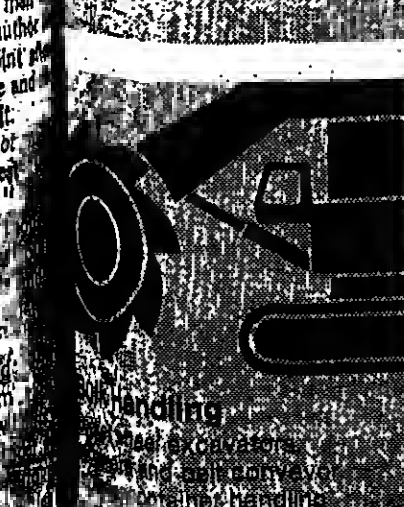
But in his iconoclasm, from thoughtless, distorted soldiers' broadcasts, war even life he has ignored virtually realism and authenticity.

*Lili Marleen* takes bits of Nazi reality and creates from own world, its own comedy laws, in which do what Fassbinder and no less than his subjective vision.

Continued on page 11

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## CHILDREN

## Handicap or just a learning problem? Premature judgements a danger



One of the dangers of social reforms is that people are too readily classified as disabled, a seminar of school doctors in Düsseldorf has been told.

This change has led to more and more people being labelled as disabled, and thus being made outsiders.

The resulting stigma puts their future at risk.

Professor H. Bach suggested to the meeting that it would be better to make no judgement until it became possible to differentiate between shortcoming and severe disability.

Where children and juveniles are concerned, most handicaps are restricted to specific areas of performance and are usually just temporary learning difficulties.

This type of light handicap occurs with about 22 per cent of school children and should therefore not be labelled a learning disability until it becomes severe and long lasting.

This would presuppose extremely poor performance in a large number of areas — something which applies to only five per cent of school-age children.

Since it is not always easy to establish such a disability, Professor Bach suggested that the terms "handicap" or "susceptibility to problems" be used instead.

To prevent such learning handicaps from turning into genuine disabilities, children should be treated and rehabilitated.

But it is exactly here that medicine and pedagogy have failed. It is therefore not surprising that alcoholism among juveniles is rising.

Some 60 per cent of 14 to 15-year-olds regularly consume alcohol; and at least 10,000 juveniles are drug addicts. Many drop out of school.

Statistics show that the juvenile drug addicts' attitude towards school is severely out of kilter. Many of these young people fail to get promoted and drop out.

Psychological and psychosomatic ailments are also on the rise among juveniles.

The Düsseldorf doctor and theologian Professor J. Meinhard of Petersberg-Fulda told the meeting that these rising illness figures were reflected in the rising number of successful and attempted suicides.

An estimated 14,000 children and juveniles attempted suicide in 1978; and the school plays a part in this development.

Like the piece of work, Professor Meinhard said, this school plays a decisive role in shaping the destinies of these young people.

Whether or not school turns into a traumatic experience depends not only on the ability of the teachers but also on the performance of doctors.

Handicaps in children of school age are usually borderline cases between pedagogy and medicine. This sheds a light on the difficulties in treating learning and upbringing disorders because both doctors and teachers are inadequately trained to cope with the task.

Since the doctor's function is to deal with the biological and the physical — with that which can be cured — and the teacher with the psychological attitudes i.e. upbringing and education, what matters most is that the two disciplines cooperate.

But what really happens, Professor Meinhard told the meeting, is that a chaos of authority ensues and that "exceeding the authority of a specific discipline is turned into a principle."

Educationalists, social workers and social pedagogues engage in therapy as if they were ashamed of their professions. Doctors, on the other hand, dabble in pedagogy — with disastrous consequences.

This results in disastrous decisions which account for the fact that 30 to 50 per cent of the children attending special schools do not belong there at all.

The sweeping diagnosis of school stress, a favourite with doctors, makes students and teachers insecure. Those who constantly accuse the school of overtaxing the students and thus causing stress only promote low-grade performance and fear of school.

This overlapping is due to a wide-spread arrogance — among doctors as well.

Professor Bach cited the pioneer of prophylactic checkups for children, the Munich pediatrician Professor T.H. Hellbrügge, who said that pedagogy amounted to pure book learning: "The pediatrician thinks only of the child; and pedagogy almost invariably thinks of the school class."

Just as the educationalist is neither equipped nor authorised to prescribe medicine or on operation, the doctor should not interfere in educational concepts.

It is therefore wrong for the Medical Association to have demanded "that universal teaching methods be abolished in favour of synthetic methods for the teaching of reading."

Such incursions by doctors into matters of education are promoted by the fact that their services are more easily accessible through the National Health Service than are the services of psychologists and educationalists.

Moreover, many parents pin greater hopes on treatment with drugs than on

extensive and lengthy pedagogical or social measures.

Doctors are also more readily prepared to diagnose an illness when parents complain about their children although the actual disorder is of a behavioural nature or due to a wrong evaluation of the child because of excessive expectations.

This applies particularly to the many behavioural disorders ranging from just plain naughtiness to alleged "sexual delinquency."

The fact that educationalists and doctors must cooperate in treating learning problems is underscored by the frequent meshing of psychological and physical disorders.

Physical handicaps frequently affect not only the learning ability but other psychological areas as well. And mental handicaps lead not only to educational consequences but are usually coupled with physical disabilities.

Although the Swiss psychiatrist Professor W. Züblin, who read a paper on "The Difficult Child", suggested that there was such a thing as "spoiled" children whose problems were solely due to wrong or nonexistent upbringing, many disorders are due to brain damage at birth.

Even if there are no neurological symptoms, and given normal intelligence, such children are frequently late in developing.

They suffer from poor memory and are subject to moods. Many of them are too passive while others tend to be excessively active. This can be aggravated by perception difficulties.

Such children have a learning handicap and their performance is far worse than their IQ would warrant.

They also frequently suffer from severe behavioural disorders because their slow development leads to conflicts with their environment. This, in turn, promotes changes in their social attitudes, leading to aggression, depression and psychosis.

They have a hard time integrating and are therefore poor students. This can be further aggravated by physical problems.

Since psychological disorders remain even once the brain function becomes normal as these children develop, it is essential that such psychological disorders

be kept in check from beginning.

As important as the doctor in diagnosing physical disorders, who is to treating their consequences only play a supporting role.

It is up to the teacher, Züblin said, to do the lion's share of the work. But many doctors find it difficult to accept this.

It is incomprehensible that attention is devoted to the matter of school doctors considering that 1.5 million children of pre-school age live in this country.

But doctors are becoming more aware of the problem, which is to hope.

For the past six years there have been regular seminars for school doctors in addition to the annual Medical Conference.

But, as Professor Meinhard said, this would have to be expanded to become a genuine forum.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 January 1981)

## Drop in school standards, says teacher

Education standards in both primary and secondary schools have fallen over the past five years, says a spokesman.

Clemens Christians, president of the German Teachers' Association, said school pupils were no longer as hardworking.

And there were diminished demands on them as a result of official curriculum policy.

Few teachers would disagree with standards of five years ago would be maintained.

Herr Christians mentioned the Rhine-Westphalia where a class group had surveyed English lessons.

At an elementary level, the standard was too low for every child to be successful.

Secondary school pupils' requirements in the first four years had been reduced by more than a third in some cases to 3,000 words.

Christians said that the children naturally no less intelligent than in the past but the trend towards even lower standards has engendered an attitude of indifference to learning.

Many consider recreation more important than school.

Herr Christians suggested the trend be gradually reversed. He said students should be guided in their learning and integrated in a "learning group" overcoming their inertia and in their brains. They must become motivated again to tackling and tasks.

In this connection he emphasised that school leaving certificates be streamlined again on the basis of uniform criteria of performance. Acceptance of school leaving certificates without such criteria would be a "regression of our educational system."

He warned against any "lowering of standards." The Ministry of Education budget for 1981 was up to DM92 billion, a 10 per cent increase on the 1980 figure.

There was much to be done in vocational training, he said, and in the area of gymnastics.

## HEALTH

## Asbestos, a threat that comes in many forms

Stories about our poisoned environment follow one another in almost daily succession, and of the most persistent offenders is asbestos.

Asbestos is a raw material that is virtually indispensable in any number of cases in everyday use. It has also long been acknowledged as a cause of industrial injury.

Industrial accident insurance schemes introduced in the mid-50s protective measures to reduce the health risk for workers in the textile and clothing industry of working with asbestos fibres.

Since 1973 there have been special prevention regulations in respect of mineral dust as a health hazard.

Since 1979 spraying with products containing asbestos has been prohibited.

But people who work in factories where asbestos is processed or live near by are by no means alone in being in danger. It is a largely unknown fact that nearly all of us inhale or swallow small, dangerous asbestos fibres every day.

Asbestos recently made news with a report that Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum had recommended an amendment to the asbestos report drafted by the Federal Environment Agency.

The draft advised a total ban on asbestos in 5 to 10 years. Herr Baum had recommended quietly written out the report.

The newspaper that commented on the report inferred that the Minister had done so in deference to the industrial lobby or because he felt a ban would jeopardise too many jobs.

The Interior Ministry promptly denied the allegation. It had not been Herr Baum who was against the specific recommendation but Heinrich von Lersner, head of the Federal Environment Agency.

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Glissen noted at the Berlin hearing. Asbestos in the air we all breathe, he said, was the result of its increasing use in building materials, such as asbestos cement and insulation.

US surveys had shown that stone containing asbestos, as used in roadbuilding, was worn down by traffic and gradually released asbestos dust into the atmosphere.

Various kinds of filter that rely on asbestos were also a source of the dangerous dust. In rooms kept germ-free by filters inhalable fibres from the filter material had been identified in the air.

Professor Bornhoff of Mainz University department of hygiene mentioned yet another problem. Inhalation of asbestos dust was dangerous, but so was its intake via the mouth.

"It is," he said, "a well-known fact that every bottle of wine contains a not inconsiderable number of asbestos fibres. That is why the filter industry is currently trying to convert its systems."

"The aim is to arrange colloidium filters behind the conventional asbestos card to cut off the fibre."

Water pipes made of asbestos cement were also suspected of being a health hazard. Water with a high calcium count could dissolve the binding agent, allowing asbestos fibres to pass into the drinking water.

Professor Beck conceded that asbestos fibre found its way into the stomach and intestines via drinking water and filtered beverages such as wine or beer.

Asbestos workers, he further allowed, seemed particularly prone to cancer of the stomach and intestines. But:

"We do not know and it has yet to be

shown whether asbestos fibre consumed orally plays any part in the frequency of cancer or mesothelioma." Experiments with laboratory animals had failed to establish a connection, which was not to say that oral intake of asbestos fibre was not a health hazard.

But although fears were entirely justified they remained to be substantiated. The experts heard in Berlin were not yet prepared to be specific on ceiling recommendations.

But they clearly realised that bans would prove necessary in the foreseeable future. Banned, they felt, would need to be imposed on specific uses or methods of processing asbestos.

It might need banning altogether in sectors where alternatives were available. There were any number of substitute materials, such as glass or slag fibre, but they too were carcinogenic.

The asbestos report is to be published at the end of January or early in February. It may not include prohibition recommendations but let us hope it will lay a groundwork for discussion of bans and for research on the subject.

Ada Brandes  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 January 1981)

## Fallout practice

Rhineland-Palatinate is the first Land to put through its paces an emergency treatment centre for nuclear fallout victims, at Haseloch, near Ludwigshafen. Civil defence officers and 120 schoolchildren practised first aid to people living in the immediate vicinity of a reactor that was assumed to have leaked. Children are here seen taking a decontamination shower and drying themselves with disposable towels.

(Photo: dpa)

## Cadmium pollution report referred to Bundestag

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum has submitted to the Bundestag the cadmium report drawn up by the Federal Environment Agency.

The report outlines the health hazard of cadmium-polluted food and counter-measures such as bans on its use.

The soil is so heavily polluted by cadmium that, as Herr Baum told the Bundestag at the end of November, far-reaching measures will prove indispensable.

That was before the report was published. The cadmium report lists the options open to politicians by way of counter-measures.

It is also brutally frank about the present position. Cadmium is highly toxic for warm-blooded animals and also attacks plants. Man as the last link in the food cycle is in the greatest danger.

Cadmium is thought to be a carcinogen. Surveys of Japanese people exposed to high cadmium concentration have shown how dangerous it can prove over a longer period.

Its repercussions can include malfunction of the kidneys and lungs, anaemia and bone damage.

Cadmium, the report says, has been found in nearly all food. Milk has the lowest cadmium count, liver, kidneys

and some mushrooms and molluscs have the highest.

What is more, acid rainfall caused by sulphur dioxide from factories, domestic heating and motor vehicles in on the increase.

This increases the amount of cadmium absorbed by plants from the soil, thereby further increasing the cadmium count in the food we eat.

Cadmium consumption by industry has increased by leaps and bounds in recent decades. It is extremely useful as an anti-corrosion additive for metals, in the manufacture of paint resistant to high temperatures and in making certain synthetics and batteries.

More than 10 per cent of the annual world output of 20,000 tonnes is sold to be consumed in the Federal Republic.

In the long term cadmium could, the report says, become a serious risk to health in general. Complaints do not usually occur until 20 or 30 years after exposure.

So the Federal Environment Agency outlines what can be done to counteract the high cadmium count in sewage and sludge, in the air and in phosphate fertilisers. It also lists alternative materials.

Starting this year, for instance, the Effluent Levy Act will charge industry for

the cadmium it pumps into the sewage network.

But the foremost objective must be to convert production processes to prevent cadmium from being pumped into the sewage in the first place.

The use of high-cadmium sewage sludge as a fertiliser certainly needs curbing drastically.

Lower statutory limits for cadmium in the atmosphere ought also to reduce atmospheric pollution once the 1978 clean air regulations are introduced.

Improved clean air installations for exhaust fumes are indispensable. They can be installed at old steel foundries.

Since phosphate fertilisers are thought to be a principal source of cadmium pollution the Federal Environment Agency recommends ending this black spot as soon as possible by means of purchase and processing agreements.

In the long term, however, processes by which fertilisers could be manufactured without cadmium needed to be developed.

The report is somewhat evasive on alternatives to cadmium in industrial use. It merely recommends the use of plastics for which cadmium is not required as a stabiliser, for instance.

As for cadmium used to harden parts for shipbuilding and aircraft manufacture, the report does not mention a note of hope.

The present position, it says, is far from clear, but cadmium could be dispensed with in a number of uses.

Gerd Strack  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 January 1981)



Fallout practice

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(Photo: dpa)

Ada Brandes  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 January 1981)

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## CIVIL UNREST

## Dissatisfaction over housing erupts in street riots



It was not only fireworks that accounted for the noise in Göttingen on New Year's Eve.

Shortly after midnight, a mob of more than 100 in an ugly mood inflamed by drink, broke windows and looted stores in the main street of the university town.

Police reinforcements were called as foot patrols became heavily outnumbered.

In the aftermath, insurance companies and businessmen are disputing whether the looting is burglary (which is covered by insurance) or civil commotion (which is not).

Yet the police should not have been so unprepared for the trouble. It had been fomenting for weeks.

During the night of 12 December squatters occupied an empty house in the city centre. In a nearby disused school they set up what they called a communication centre which was nothing but a glorified pub: the "Prague School" was thus turned into a "Kraak School", a reference to Dutch squatters.

It seems obvious that the Göttingen squatters modelled themselves on Amsterdam squatters who have tried for years to draw attention to the housing shortage and who made headlines with their riots during the April coronation festivities.

A poster reading "We're Kraaking" should have served as a warning. Another poster — obviously referring to Poland — consisted of the single word: "Solidarity."

Little became known as to how much solidarity there was behind the newly painted green facade.

In any event, the New Year's Eve riots do not seem to have been planned and coordinated for not only the police but the demonstrators as well were caught without the usual crash helmets when violence escalated.

The fact that the squatters admitted having broken only two of the shop windows — those which they felt could somehow be justified politically — and said that they had nothing to do with the looting above that they knew very well that the night's rioting had lost them much of the sympathy that had been built up among the public — sympathy they had earned not only because they restored a house declared as uninhabitable in record time.

The whole affair has highlighted several shortcomings on the part of city planning during the past decades in the centre of Göttingen.

It is the city planning authority that is responsible for the change in the appearance of the city and hence for life in it. Its work has been marked by continuity rather than flexibility.

The authority has been headed by the same man since 1961 (an SPD member). But his star began to sink when the FDP decided to vote with the CDU because that party at a recent election of the city administrator had seen to it that the FDP candidate was put in charge of the administration. His liberalism was put to a tough test by the squatters.

They picked a worthwhile house for their *instandbesetzung* (a play on words that can best be translated as repair-and-squat). The four-storey timbered building is well over 100 years old and far from derelict. It is only neglected.

Its former beauty was simply hidden by neglect. As a result, the people in charge of national monuments overlooked the house.

They did not become aware of it until the squatters took over (there are not many houses of this type left in Göttingen) when they declared it a national monument.

This has dashed the plans of its owner who wanted to tear the building down and can now no longer do so.

This was an obvious success for the squatters who are not only trying to combat the housing shortage but also the further demolition of buildings in the city centre.

But the fact that a house has been declared a national monument does not necessarily protect it from demolition in Göttingen, as several examples show — examples that have not only harmed the appearance of the city but also the public's faith in the city fathers.

The beginning of the end was marked by the demolition of the hippodrome built by King George II in 1735. The neoclassical structure that had to give way to a department store was one of the major landmarks of Göttingen. All that remains is the portal which now graces the entrance to a parking lot.

The hippodrome is the symbol of a policy that has turned the sleepy university town on the edge of the Harz mountain range into a Lower Saxony business centre. The small seat of learning that weathered the war unscathed has thus become a mini metropolis.

A senior member of the planning authority says: "Economic development was given priority."

Meanwhile, it has become difficult to find takers for the newly built luxury apartments in the city centre. They were erected in exactly the place where reasonably priced housing is most needed.

A whole borough in the old city had to be razed to make room for a third department store which will not be built after all because another big shopping centre proved such a flop that nobody wants to rent the individual shops at any price.

The East Ring that was to have encroached on the built-up city area and for which a number of beautiful build-

## Fassbinder's latest

Continued from page 10

the Texas of the oil millionaires in *Written in the Wind*.

*Lili Marleen* is not an attempt to reconstruct an era — though it is an extremely expensive film — but uses its main structure as the backdrop to an individual fate. It is an ordinary, even everyday fate, magnified by the time in which it is enacted.

This is the essence of Sirk's melodramas, the influence of which is nowhere in Fassbinder's work more evident than here.

Eckhart Schmidt  
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,  
2 January 1981)

ings were torn down will probably be scrapped. None of this has done much for Göttingen, even though that a new history consciousness is mightily in evidence, expressing itself in a drive to bring back to the city what it wantonly destroyed, i.e. the old timbered houses. Mock timbered facades are now going up even in those areas of the inner city where they never existed before, while in those places that traditionally had these buildings they had to give way to monotonous new structures. Granted, even Göttingen has learned from its mistakes and now no longer equates rehabilitation with total demolition and new construction.

The second major rehabilitation programme in the inner city around St. John's Church treats old buildings with more care.

But this does not change the fact that these programmes that go under the magic word "rehabilitation" alter the structure of our cities — and not only in Göttingen.

Rehabilitation does not only drive tenants out of their homes for the time reconstruction takes but usually for good because the renovation not only makes the houses more beautiful and more modern but also considerably more expensive.

Yet what the city centre needs is cheap housing — especially in view of the fact that the number of students has doubled in the past 10 years to almost 25,000.

Even now, in mid-semester, half of the students are without proper accommodation while others live in places that are much too expensive or out in the country near the border with East Germany; and their commuting has aggravated city parking problems.

A study shows that the students have to pay between 25 and 33 per cent of their incomes or allowances just for a roof over their heads — accommodation with which most are dissatisfied anyway.

One in three would prefer group living; but this would require large apartments suitable for families which are virtually unavailable in the inner city.

What angers both those looking for apartments to rent and the squatters is the large number of unoccupied houses in the city centre.

The cause of anger is the large number of unoccupied housing units in the centre.

According to the city administration, there are 20 buildings with unoccupied quarters; the squatters say there are many more.

Whatever the number, many have been empty for years, waiting for either



Göttingen squatters getting the message across.

renovation or demolition. Being the only accelerates the process of renovation.

Other houses are unoccupied by their owners don't know what to do with them, as demonstrated by the notorious example of an eccentric who simply does not feel like her large and well preserved apartment house.

The fact that she has so far succeeded in avoiding fines shows the ineffectiveness of recent legislation.

The squatters have now given the lady who so cleverly evades the law a look that makes her look down to erect a parking garage warning. They painted the "We're coming" on the facade.

The handful of young squatters have meanwhile been joined by a large number of students who intend to stay for a long time and to obtain licenses. But so far all they received is a summons for an appearance in court.

The idea these people have of a comfortable living is not shared by the city and cannot be realised in the apartments of new buildings or in the old apartment houses. They live among pieces of furniture others have discarded.

Our society, which otherwise has been as liberal as possible, has systematically narrowed this type of scope in wake of sweeping modernisation programmes in city centres.

Those who cannot afford one of the expensive comfortable new apartments only want to move to the old and do not want to pursue an alternative lifestyle in one of the many communes are hard put to find a place in the city centre.

The squatters therefore demand only that the unoccupied apartments be let; they also want communal living working.

Although this wish is not unreasonable it still seems utopian in our society. And utopias cannot be made to come true by violence.

Monika Schmidt  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 January 1981)

## SPORT

## Improving volleyball women step into the limelight

Germany's volleyball girls are not often asked for autographs and their signatures do not yet rate very highly among autograph-hunters.

They are still legible, and most members add their jersey number and date; their faces are not yet a quantity either.

It may only be a matter of time, however, as the squad are certainly determined to gain acclaim for names such as Metelkova, Marina Staden, Siemering and Ute Moser.

In 1976, at the last world championship the West German women came a year later they were ninth, albeit European champions.

They put up a spirited performance against the Soviet Union, the gold medalists, in a tournament in Yerevan, Bulgaria, only yielding to the tough sets.

At the New Year tournament in Bremen, they beat Brazil's coming 3-1. The Brazilian girls came second at Moscow and last year the West German team were jubilant at having only narrowly to them.

There are guest stars from abroad and there is the glare of publicity, but it would be premature to suppose that results are already apparent in the national team's showing.

Even in a sport that is growing as fast as volleyball it would be a little early in the day to make this assumption.

A closer look needs to be taken at the team line-ups in a tournament such as Bremen. It will soon be seen that the glamour and glitter are a little exaggerated.

The fans got their money's worth, however, which is saying something at DM15 a time per adult. The Chinese girls with an artistry reminiscent of the Harlem Globetrotters were well worth seeing.

So were the Cuban and Brazilian girls, and between them they produced an array of exotic names ranging from Ping Lang to Regino de Uchoa.

Tall girls some of them were, too, unless you happen to be taller than 1.80m (5ft 10in) yourself. But the tour-

naments had no game time. The girls were almost empty, whereas at the time they had their ticket money refunded because the hall was full of overflowing.

The Volleyball Association must by now be accustomed to crowds and the troubles associated with growth. It has only been in existence for 25 years and seems to have been through a century's worth of affairs.

The association and its member-clubs are always seen eye to eye. They are side by side but often in rivalry, and the attraction exerted by the sport.

It is merely by the way, albeit it is by no means an unimportant part of the background. It requires imagination to realise that organisation will make its mark on the sport.

The girls have now begun to put their own points of the past by



Marina Staden

## Hübner loses his chance

Hopes that a German chess player would challenge world champion Anatoli Karpov of the Soviet Union have been dashed.

Cologne grand master Robert Hübner, 32, who was trailing by three-and-a-half to four-and-a-half points, threw in the towel in the final of the candidates' tournament in Merano, Italy, on 9 January.

He withdrew and conceded defeat to former Soviet grand master Victor Korchnoi. Yet at one stage Hübner was a point ahead.

The news that he had withdrawn with 8 of the 16 games still to play will have hit the Soviet Union like a bombshell. Soviet enigma Korchnoi will be challenging Karpov, 29, again.

Since leaving the Soviet Union in 1976 Korchnoi, who now lives in Zurich, has been a persona non grata for the Soviet authorities.

Two years ago he lost 6-5 to Karpov in a nerve-racking 32 games in Baguio, in the Philippines. The world champion escaped defeat by the skin of his teeth.

Last year, in the qualifying rounds, Korchnoi eliminated Petrosian and Polugaevski, both Soviet grand masters.

Dr Hübner's withdrawal will have come as a surprise to chess fans in Germany and elsewhere.

At the start of the final against Korchnoi in Merano he conveyed a relaxed impression and beat Korchnoi in the final game.

But the seventh game was clearly the turning point. Hübner was leading but lost after an elementary mistake.

His nerves seem to have been shaken. His manager Wilfried Hilgert said so with reference to German media reports and was supported by Alban Brodbeck, Korchnoi's lawyer.

Dr Brodbeck, a Swiss solicitor, said at a Merano press conference that "half-truths degraded chess contests to duels between schizophrenics and neurotics."

Hilgert said Hübner had been particularly upset by an article in *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg news weekly. He reckoned it had affected Hübner's performance in the fateful seventh game.

Hübner's managers also attributed defeat in the eighth game to outside influences, on this occasion a journalist intruding in the bar where Hübner was relaxing.

dpa  
(Kloster Nachrichten, 10 January 1981)



Only a matter of time for the West German girls.

(Photograph by Jürgen Böhmer)